

**ABSTRACT**

Computer-implemented methods, systems and apparatus implement techniques for generating custom coclasses. A runtime environment includes a client application implementing an object model, which includes a hierarchy of object classes that can be instantiated in the client application. The object model includes class templates, each having an associated class type, and includes class functionality information – including required class functionality and elective class functionality – for custom classes that can be implemented in the client application. When a user requests the creation of a custom class of a specified type, a design-time environment is launched and class functionality information is retrieved for a class template associated with the type. A custom class is created, based on a class definition defining a class having the required class functionality and the specified elective class functionality. Objects belonging to the custom class can be instantiated from the runtime environment independent of the design-time environment.

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